Banana Research

2570. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DRABE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been made about the bananas being grown in abundance in North Bihar to make them bigger in size and better in taste; and

(b) what steps are being taken for their quick transportation to consumer centres like Calcutta and Delhi so that producers get a remunerative price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Research on improving productivity and selection of improved varieties of banana in Bihar is being carried out by the Central Horticultural Experiment Station, Ranchi of the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore, as well as by the Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa and the Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi.

(b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabbha.

Electricity and Water Charges Outstanding against Ex-Ministers/Ex-M.ps.

2571. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrears towards electricity and water charges which have been outstanding against former Central Ministers and former M. Ps.; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government for the recovry of these dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) A sum of Rs. 8.24 lakhs is outstanding.

(b) Appropriate steps at the Departmental level have been taken for recovery of Government dues.

Pesticides Poisoning Cases in the Country

2572. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express dated the 20th October, 1985 to the effect that in Maharashtra and Karnataka maximum number of pesticide poisoning cases have been recorded;

(b) what is the number of pesticide poisoning cases in other States during the last three years; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to minimise these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) No such news item seems to have appeared in the Delhi edition of the Indian Express of 20th October, 1985. However, no statistics are available from any State regarding the pesticide poisoning, if any. In the past, certain reports had been received alleging poisoning due to pesticides. On investigations, however, they were found to be either due to wrong usage of pesticide or for purposes not permitted or the pesticides were consumed for suicidal purposes.

(c) Government have laid down elaborate instructions regarding the safe handling and proper use of pesticides the dosages to be used and precautions to be observed to avoid any risk to human-beings, etc. The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the insecticides Act, 1968 before granting registration to any pesticide satisfies itself fully regarding the efficacy and safety of the product to the human-beings, the animals and the environment. To help the users of pesticides to take safety precautions, the lables and leaflets accompanying with the containers of pesticides carry all the necessary information in minimum of three languages, including one regional language. Besides, the extension functionaries of both the Central and the State Governments periodically organise training for the benefit of formers to ensure judicious and safe use of pesticides.